

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-11 remain in the application. Claims 2-8 and 10-11 have been amended. A marked-up version of the claims is attached hereto on separate pages.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claim 8 has been objected to as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that independent claim 2 is directed to a rubber blanket *per se* while dependent claim 8 requires a clamping device which does not form any part of the rubber blanket structure. Claims 2 and 8 have been amended so as to overcome the rejection. Other claims have been amended to be consistent with this change.

It is accordingly believed that the specification and the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes

are not provided for overcoming the prior art nor for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In item 4 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1 and 9 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Kunkel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,707,902) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In item 5 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 2-8, 10, and 11 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Philpot (U.S. Patent No. 5,088,408) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

"bringing the register cut-outs formed in the rubber cylinder into contact with the register pins of the clamping device when the clamping device has been applied to the cylinder."

Regarding the rejection of claim 1 over Kunkel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,707,902) under 35 U.S.C. § 102, it is noted that the Kunkel et al. reference discloses that it is essential that the aligning of the register cut-outs relative to the register pins and the clamping of the rubber blanket occur outside of the printing machine (column 2, lines 58-66 and column 3, lines 27-30). Furthermore, while aligning the register cut-outs and during the clamping of the rubber blanket the clamping device is not in the printing machine and therefore not in the cylinder.

It is noted that the method according to the German Priority Application DE 35 45 172 of the Kunkel et al. reference along with the disadvantages thereof were disclosed in the specification of the instant application (page 1, line 14 to page 2, line 25).

Clearly, the reference does not show bringing the register cut-outs formed in the rubber cylinder into contact with the register pins of the clamping device when the clamping device has been applied to the cylinder, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. The Kunkel et al. reference discloses that it is essential that the aligning of the register cut-outs relative to the register pins and the clamping of the rubber blanket occur outside of the printing machine. Furthermore, while aligning the register cut-outs and during

the clamping of the rubber blanket, the clamping device is not in the printing machine and therefore not in the cylinder.

This is contrary to the invention of the instant application, in which the register cut-outs formed in the rubber cylinder are brought into contact with the register pins of the clamping device when the clamping device has been applied to the cylinder. This takes place within either the printing unit or the varnishing unit (page 6, lines 17-20).

Claim 9 calls for, inter alia:

"said register cut-outs being arranged in the rubber blanket so as to correspond to register cut-outs formed in a printing plate."

Regarding the rejection of claim 9 over Kunkel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,707,902) under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the following argument is given.

Clearly, the reference does not show the register cut-outs being arranged in the rubber blanket so as to correspond to register cut-outs formed in a printing plate, as recited in claim 9 of the instant application. The Kunkel et al. reference does not disclose that the register cut-outs of the rubber blanket are arranged to correspond to register cut-outs of the printing plate. This is contrary to the invention of

the instant application, in which the register cut-outs are arranged in the rubber blanket so as to correspond to register cut-outs formed in a printing plate.

Claims 2, 10, and 11 call for, inter alia:

"said rubber blanket having a clamping bar having register cut-outs formed therein."

Regarding the rejection of claims 2-8, 10, and 11 over Philpot (U.S. Patent No. 5,088,408) under 35 U.S.C. § 102, it is noted that the Philpot reference discloses a printing plate (12). Furthermore, rigid reinforcing means (24) include an aperture (26) formed therethrough. Received within the aperture (26) of the rigid ring-shaped reinforcing means (24) is a pin-like member (not shown) that is disposed adjacent the working surface of such printing plate cylinder (column 7, lines 10-15).

Clearly, the reference does not show a rubber blanket having a clamping bar having register cut-outs formed therein, as recited in claims 2, 10, and 11 of the instant application. The Philpot reference pertains to a printing plate (12) and not to a rubber blanket, as in the invention of the instant application. Also the cut-outs in the Philpot reference are not register cut-outs, since it is typical for a register

system to have exactly two register cutouts. More than two register cut-outs would cause a redundant dimensioning, thereby not allowing a precise alignment of the rubber blanket. Since there are more than two of the apertures (26) in the Philpot reference, they are not register cut-outs and therefore the pin-like parts are not designated as register pins. Furthermore, the apertures (26) serve to fasten the printing plate and are not register cut-outs as a person of ordinary skill in the art knows them.

It is also noted that Philpot discloses ring-shaped reinforcements (24). This is contrary to the invention of the instant application, in which a clamping bar is present, which means it has a strip-like edge reinforcement.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest bringing the register cut-outs formed in the rubber cylinder into contact with the register pins of the clamping device when the clamping device has been applied to the cylinder, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Furthermore, none of the references whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the register cut-outs being arranged in the rubber blanket so as to correspond to register cut-outs formed in a printing plate, as recited in claim 9 of the instant application. Nor do any

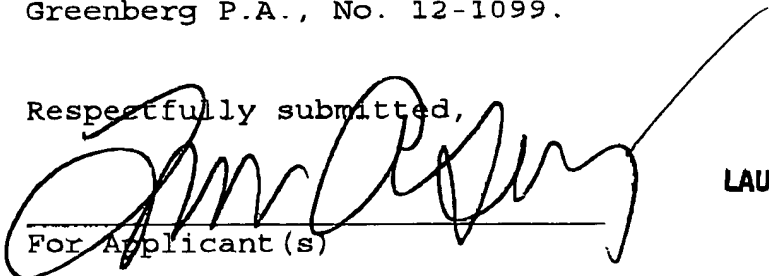
of the references show or suggest a rubber blanket having a clamping bar having register cut-outs formed therein, as recited in claims 2, 10, and 11 of the instant application. Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 11 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 2, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-11 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant(s)

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308

AKD:cgm

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101

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Marked-up version of the claims:

Claim 2 (amended). A rubber blanket configuration,
comprising:

[A] a rubber blanket [having register cut-outs and being]
formed of a blanket material[, comprising];

said rubber blanket having a clamping bar [of the rubber
blanket, the] with register cut-outs [being] formed [in said
clamping bar] therein.

Claim 3 (amended). The rubber blanket configuration according
to claim 2, wherein said clamping bar is disposed only on an
underside of the blanket material.

Claim 4 (amended). The rubber blanket configuration according
to claim 2, wherein said clamping bar projects beyond an edge
of the blanket material.

Claim 5 (amended). The rubber blanket configuration according
to claim 4, wherein said edge is a leading edge of the blanket
material.

Claim 6 (amended). The rubber blanket configuration according to claim 2, wherein the register cut-outs are formed only in said clamping bar.

Claim 7 (amended). The rubber blanket configuration according to claim 2, including a sealing substance provided in at least one corner angle between the blanket material and said clamping bar.

Claim 8 (amended). The rubber blanket configuration according to claim 2, including a clamping device, only said clamping bar being grippable by said clamping device for fastening the rubber blanket to a cylinder.

Claim 10 (amended). A printing machine, comprising:

[having] a rubber blanket configuration having a rubber blanket [with register cut-outs and being] formed of a blanket material[,]

[the] said rubber blanket [comprising] including a clamping bar[, and the] having register cut-outs [being] formed therein [in said clamping bar].

Claim 11 (amended). A varnishing machine, comprising:

[having] a rubber blanket configuration having a rubber blanket [with register cut-outs and being] formed of a blanket material[,]

[the] said rubber blanket [comprising] including a clamping bar[, and the] having register cut-outs [being] formed therein [in said clamping bar].

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Marked-up version of the specification:

Replace the paragraph between page 1, line 14 and page 1, line 22 with the following: --Such a method is described in the published German Patent Document DE 35 45 172 A1, corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 4,707,902, wherein, initially, the ends of a rubber blanket formed with register cut-outs are inserted between clamping bars in a clamping device outside of a printing machine until the register cut-outs come into contact with register pins belonging to the clamping devices. The clamping bars of the clamping devices are then connected by clamping screws. The clamping devices with the rubber blanket are then applied to a cylinder in the printing machine.--